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241 PAID AGRICULTURAL labour is very rare; the work of the farm is done entirely by the peasant and his family, including women. Modern machinery is still almost unknown, so that agricultural practice is rather that of the garden than that of the field in our Western sense.

PLOUGHING is done with a wooden plough tipped with iron and ox drawn. Sowing is done largely by hand, while intermediate operations, such as hilling the maize, are done with a hoe of the form illustrated on page 59. Harvesting, if not done by "pulling" (e.g. flax), or picking (e.g. fruit), is done by means of a sickle (maize) or scythe (hay).

[242] AMONG SOME farmers some idea of rotation of crops is understood, but only very imperfectly; in many cases it is not practised at all, the same plot of land being used for maize year after year.

ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS are seldom used, peasants depending for renewal of fertility upon animal manure and ploughing in and burning the stubble. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the yield is low and crops poor in quality.

[221] SOWING BEGINS at the end of April or the beginning of May (oats) and continues until the middle of June. Harvesting begins as soon after July 20th as possible and continues until the end of October, when the last of the maize is gathered.

231 ANIMALS PLAY an important part in the agricultural economy of the Rumanian peasant. Every holding possesses sheep, particularly milking ewes, milking cows, draught oxen, perhaps a horse or horses, pigs, together with geese and fowls. Few holdings are without one or two hives of bees. Occasionally on a very small holding (less than one hectare) milking cows are replaced by goats. During the summer (from the beginning of May until the end of August) the sheep and such cattle as are not needed at the farm for draught or milking purposes are sent up to the high pastures. Pigs are sometimes sent up with them, but not goats. During this time the animals left are either fed on fodder crops at the farm or are sent out daily to pasture on a portion of the hay meadows set aside for that purpose. On being brought down from the mountains the animals are pastured for a short time on the hay meadows from which the crop has already been taken. They are then brought back to their

231 owner's farm, where the cows are kept in sheds, and the sheep, which are more hardy, are penned on the arable land, particularly on the maize stubble. Both sheep and cattle are fed on fodder crops during the winter. The surplus animals are sold at the autumn fair, and form a source of revenue.

476 [234] Whilst on the high pastures the sheep are clipped twice, and the wool is divided amongst the peasants in proportion to the number of animals sent up. The cheese is usually shared by the owners of the animals in the same way, the mayor and his committee being responsible for the correct apportionment. In the Valley of the Argeş co-operative dealers from Bucharest frequently buy the cheese "in bulk" direct from the commune, and the monetary value is shared between the owners of the animals.

231 Oxen are used almost exclusively for draught purposes, the numbers kept in this district being somewhat in excess of the farmers' requirements, owing to their use for lumbering (see below).

241 [369] [439] Peasant farming in the Valley of the Argeş is no longer entirely on a subsistence basis. Two factors have tended to modify it. Firstly, the position of the valley, opening as it does directly on the Wallachian Plain, with its rich grain lands and containing the capital Bucharest, has allowed commercial intercourse to develop. The Argeş peasant no longer cultivates wheat; he does not mind if his maize crop is good enough for fodder only, for he can buy both wheat and maize from the plain. Further, he finds a ready market and so a money income in Bucharest for his surplus fruit, 313 particularly apples, and cheese. Secondly, the forests form a valuable asset to the peasant. During the winter felling takes place in the upper basin of the Argeş; in spring and summer the timber is transported, and work in the State mill in Curtea goes on all the year round. Practically every household has somebody working in the timber trade, and the money so earned (as much as 100 lei per day for a man supplying his own yoke of oxen) reduces the dependence of the family on the farm.

874 242 At Curtea de Argeş is the School of Agriculture, Regina Elizabeta. Although only a small percentage of its pupils is local, it is gradually influencing the farming of the neighbourhood. Experiments in cultivation, plant breeding and

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874 the use of machinery are carried on at the school. Advisers
242 are sent out to the farms, and seeds and plants, as well as artificial manure, are supplied to the peasants at a very low cost. Machinery is also loaned out cheaply. The average
[157] peasant, however, is very conservative, and progress is slow.

SOME DETAILS OF TWO FARMS: AUGUST 1936

FARM A

423 SIZE: one half-hectare approximately. This farm is situated
241 approximately two miles north of Curtea de Argeş.

THE HOLDING consists of a narrow rectangular strip, bounded on one of its long sides by a rough lane and on its short side by the main road. The ground is fairly level and sufficiently above the river to be well drained. (See Plan A for utilization of land and arrangement of buildings.)

Animals

[231] 2 milking cows, 2 calves (at farm), but no oxen (this was unusual).
10 sheep, away on high pastures.
3 pigs, at farm.
10 geese, 6 ducks, 50 hens.

FARM B

SIZE: Five hectares approtimately. This farm is situated at Corbeni, several kilometres north of Curtea de Argeş, at a point where the river valley widens out and the river braids. The farm is situated on the second terrace. The plot is rectangular, with its narrow side bordered by the road and its long side running parallel to the river, thus giving a well-drained but flat holding. The son of the owner holds a diploma for agriculture and the farm shows every evidence of prosperity. See PLAN B for utilization of land and arrangement of buildings.